



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - August 22, 2003**

- ***In the West***, cooler air is overspreading the ***Pacific Coast States***, but very warm weather persists elsewhere. Despite the heat, showers dot the ***Northwest*** and the ***Four Corners region***, easing irrigation demands, aiding wildfire containment efforts, and providing limited drought relief.
- ***On the Plains***, hot, mostly dry weather continues to promote fieldwork, including spring wheat harvesting, but severely stress pastures and immature summer crops. In addition, widespread precipitation will be needed in the next several weeks to improve soil moisture reserves in preparation for winter wheat planting.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, the passage of a cold front has pushed extreme heat south of the region. Yesterday's high temperatures were near 105 degrees F in ***northern Missouri*** and approached 100 degrees F as far north as ***northern Illinois***. However, the cold front produced only isolated showers, leaving many immature summer crops across the ***western Corn Belt*** still in need of rain.
- ***In the South***, humid, showery conditions are causing minor fieldwork delays but aiding pastures and immature summer crops. However, drier weather will be needed as more cotton bolls open.

**Outlook:** Later today, a cold front will sweep across the ***Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States***, accompanied by cooler air and a chance of scattered showers and thunderstorms. Farther south, locally heavy showers will persist into early next week in the ***Southeastern and Gulf Coast States***. Meanwhile, dry weather will accompany a high-pressure system from the ***central Plains eastward into the Ohio Valley***, although unfavorably hot conditions will return to areas as far east as the ***southwestern Corn Belt***. Farther west, scattered showers will provide limited heat and drought relief from the ***Rockies westward to the Pacific Coast***, although dry weather will return to much of ***California***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 27-31 calls for above-normal rainfall in the ***central and southern Plains, Ohio Valley, lower Great Lakes region***, and parts of the ***Southeast***. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal conditions are likely across the nation's northern tier from ***Washington to Minnesota***. Below-normal temperatures are forecast nationwide, except for pockets of cooler-than-normal weather in the ***Pacific Northwest*** and along the ***northern Atlantic Coast***.

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**Web Site:** <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>